

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the pending application is respectfully requested on the basis of the following particulars:

Priority

Applicant appreciates the examiner's acknowledgement of the claim for foreign priority based on French Application No. 97/03277.

However, while the examiner states that Applicant has not filed a certified copy of the French application 97/03277, Applicant notes that the NOTICE OF ACCEPTANCE OF APPLICATION UNDER 35 U.S.C 371 AND 37 CFR 1.495 dated April 26, 2006 indicates that the priority document has been received in the present application.

Applicant requests that the examiner review the NOTICE OF ACCEPTANCE, and verify and acknowledge receipt of the priority document.

Rejection of claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 7 presently stands rejected as being unpatentable over Jackson (U.S. 5,941,885) in view of Biedermann (U.S. 5,681,319). Claim 7 has been cancelled, rendering the instant rejection moot.

Allowed claims

Applicant notes with appreciation the examiner's indication that claims 1-6 are allowed. Because claim 7 is now cancelled, leaving only allowed claims 1-6 pending, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the amendments to the claims, and in further view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance.

Application No.: 09/380,614
Examiner: N. Woodall
Art Unit: 3733

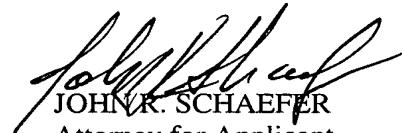
Accordingly, it is requested that claims 1-6 be allowed and the application be passed to issue.

If any issues remain that may be resolved by a telephone or facsimile communication with the Applicant's attorney, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the numbers shown.

Respectfully submitted,

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